



MFC News

Caring for the Trees and Forests of Mississippi Since 1926

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September 2013



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NEVER FORGET WE THE PEOPLE

★ The Pentagon ★

COURAGE STRENGTH BRAVERY

AMERICA

ONE NATION UNDER GOD

NEW YORK CITY

flight 11 + flight 175 + flight 77 + flight 93

UNITED WE STAND

Shanksville, Pennsylvania

GOD SHED HIS GRACE ON THEE

TWIN TOWERS

FREEDOM JUSTICE LIBERTY

REMEMBER

9 11 2001

The Mississippi Forestry Commission provides equal employment opportunities and services to all individuals regardless of disability, race, age, religion, color, gender, national origin, or political affiliation.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider



Labor Day
Holiday

September 2, 2013

Hope you have a
great Labor Day
Holiday.



Newsletter Deadlines

All submissions are welcome. Photographs are encouraged (although space limitations may curtail inclusion). Items must be received by the **10th of the month** to be included in the next month's issue. E-mail submissions (in *Microsoft Word*) and photos to

lharris@mfc.state.ms.us

or mail to:

Lisa A. Harris

Mississippi Forestry Commission

822 SCR 115 S

Raleigh, MS 39153

September 911 Remembrance Day

Patriots Day occurs on September 11th each year to commemorate the 2,966 people killed in the September 11th 2001 terrorist attacks.

On this day the American flag is flown at half mast at the White House, all American government buildings at home and overseas and American homes. The President also requests that the American public observe a minute of silence beginning at 8.46a.m. EST. This is the time of the first plane crash into the World Trade Center on September 11th 2001.

I doubt anyone will ever forget where they were on the morning of September 11, 2001, when they heard of the attacks on the twin World Trade Towers in NYC and the Pentagon in Washington. This horrible and tragic day is etched forever in our memories.

Like the attack on Pearl Harbor that brought us into World War II, the 911 attacks led us into a new war... the war on terrorism. It also touched and changed forever, the lives of each and every American.

On the anniversary of 911, we encourage you to spend a few minutes reflecting upon this event, and praying for the victims who died, and their families and friends.

911 Facts & History

- ✚ On the morning of September 11, 2001, nineteen Islamic al-Qaeda militants hijacked four planes. The hijackings occurred from Boston, Newark and Washington airports. The planes selected were long distance flights, which would have more fuel in the tanks.
- ✚ One plane each hit the north and south towers of the World Trade Center in New York city. The planes and engulfing firestorm, ultimately brought down both towers.
- ✚ A number of other buildings were also damaged or destroyed. Most notably was the Marriott hotel, which was also destroyed.
- ✚ A third plane hit the Pentagon in Washington, DC.
- ✚ The fourth hijacked plane ultimately crashed in a field in Shanksville, PA. Passengers on the plane learned of the fate of the other planes, and unsuccessfully attempted to take back control of the plane from the suicidal hijackers. Everyone aboard died.

911 Numbers

- ✚ Total Victims: 2,966, including the 19 hijackers and 2,977 victims.
 - On four planes: 246
 - New York City: 2,606 in the towers and on the ground
 - Pentagon: 125
- ✚ Nearly all the victims were civilians; 55 military personnel were among the killed at the Pentagon.
- ✚ The civilians killed were from more than 90 different countries.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★
Patriot Day
September 11,
2013

Labor Day

Dedicated in honor of the worker, it is also appropriately called the "workingman's holiday". The holiday is dedicated to you in respect and appreciation for the work you do in or outside of the home, union or non-union, big company, small companies, or government. As long as you work somewhere at something, this holiday is for you!

The first Labor Day was celebrated in New York City on September 5, 1882 and was started by the Central Labor Union in New York City. In 1884, it was moved to the first Monday in September where it is celebrated today. Labor Day quickly became popular and one state after another voted it as a holiday. On June 28, 1894, the U.S. congress voted it a national holiday.

Labor Day is also viewed as the official end of summer. While the Fall Equinox is still a couple of weeks away, kids go back to school and summer vacations are over. So this marks the end of the season. Many people celebrate this weekend with one last picnic. It is also the date that many peo-

ple close up the pool, and put away the boats.

Was it McGuire or Maguire? Either Peter McGuire or Matthew Maguire is the Creator of Labor Day. Peter J. McGuire, was an active labor organizer. He was also general secretary of the Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners and a co-founder of the American Federation of Labor. He was believed to be the first to suggest a day be dedicated to American workers and their accomplishments. Matthew Maguire however, was secretary of the Central Labor Union in New York in 1882 and many believed that he proposed the holiday in 1882.

Labor Day Numbers

- **155.2 Million** - number of people 16 and older in the nation's labor force in June 2012.
- **26.3 Million** - number of female workers 16 and older in management, business, science and arts occupations in 2010.
- **23.7 Million** - number of male workers 16 and older in management, professional and related occupations in 2010.
- **5.9 Million** - the number of people who worked from home in 2010.
- **16.3 Million** - the number of commuters who left for work between midnight and 5:59 a.m. in 2010. They represent 12.5% of all commuters.
- **3.2 Million** - the number of workers who faced extreme commutes to work of 90 or more minutes each day in 2010.
- **25.3 Minutes** - the average time it took people in the nation to commute to work in 2010.
- **76.6%** - the number of workers who drove alone to work in 2010.
- **9.7%** - the number of workers who car-pooled to work in 2010.
- **4.9%** - the number of workers who took public transportation (excluding taxi cabs) to work in 2010.
- **\$47,715** - the 2010 real median earning for male full-time, year-round workers.
- **\$36,931** - the 2010 real median earning for female full-time, year-round workers.
- **85%** - the number of full-time workers 18 to 64 covered by health insurance during 2010.

September's Birthdays



Rebekah Olander -1
 George Davis -2
 Russell Jones -3
 RC Bownes -4
 William Wilson -4
 Allen Nunley -5
 Matilda Fleming -6
 Dudley Jones -8
 Lynn Conley -10
 Nathan Daley -10
 James Parker -11
 John Rowley -13
 John Jones -14
 Stanley Parker -14
 Christopher Ivey -15
 Troy McCluskey -15
 Mitchell Whatley -15
 Cheryl Arnold -16
 Jimmie Gaines -16
 Matthew Reed -16
 Jeffrey King -18
 Kevin Melton -18
 Gerald Farmer -19
 Russell Garrett -19
 Ronald Adcock -22
 Janice Baker -22
 Allen Spencer -22
 Lacie Wilkerson -22
 Steven Williams -22
 Ruth Dollar -23
 Leslie Blackwell -24
 Danny Loftin -24
 Tommy Rutland -25
 Jimmy Fulton -27
 Phillip South -27
 Michael Street -28
 Robbin Dickerson -29



Personnel Personals



- ☺ Nathan Daley, Forest Ranger, Jefferson Davis County, SWD
- ☺ Alden Johnson, Forest Ranger, Amite County, SWD
- ☺ Colin Ladner, Forest Ranger, Hancock County, SED
- ☺ Ross T. Wescovich, Forest Ranger, Hancock County, SED
- ☺ Michael W. Hughey, Forester Trainee, Monroe County, NED
- ☺ Corey A. Franks, Forester Trainee, Lafayette County, NED



Gone Fishin'

- ☺ Barbara Riddle, Administrative Assistant, Prentiss County, Northeast District

September 2013

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Leaves:

Type: simple, opposite, deciduous

Size: 3.0" - 6.0" long; 3.0" - 6.0" wide

Margin: coarsely and irregularly serrate

Apex: long-tapering

Base: cordate or truncate

Shape: circular; palmately lobed (usually 5); acute sinuses

Color: light green above; white below

Surface: scattered hairs above; thick tomentum below (differentiation characteristic)

Venation: palmate

Twigs:

Size: slender

Color: matted pale hairs 1st year; then reddish brown

Surface: glabrous 2nd year

Buds:

Size: 0.13" long

Shape: terminal blunt; lateral flower buds globose

Color: reddish

Surface: ciliate on the margins

Fruit and Flowers:

Samara: double

Size: 1.25" - 2.5" long; 0.5" - 0.75" wide

Shape: convergent wings

Color: bright scarlet

Flower: polygamo-dioecious; in dense, stalked axillary clusters; 0.04" long; bell-shaped calyx; petals 5, red,

as long as calyx; staminate, fascicled; pistillate, in drooping racemes

Bark: light to dark gray; smooth when young; developing long scaly plates with age

Physical Attributes:

Form: single stem

Size: 69.0' - 90.0' mature

Growth Rate: rapid; 35.0' maximum @ 20 yrs

Life Span: short (<50 yrs)

Tolerances:

Shade: tolerant

Drought: low

Fire: low

Habitat and Ecology:

Site: cypress-tupelo swamps; very wet sites; obligate wetland (OBL); almost always occurs (>99%) in wetlands in the southeastern U.S.

Soil Texture: fine - coarse

Soil pH: 4.0 - 7.4

Range: southeastern U.S.; in Mississippi, scattered throughout on wetland sites

Wildlife Value and Uses:

good deer browse; seeds eaten by song and game birds; bark, browse and buds used by small mammals; an important squirrel food

Timber Value and Uses: considered a soft maple; moderate quality hardwood with good size; pulp for paper

Landscaping Info: not commercially available

Other Facts: is typically found in deep swampy areas

of the Mississippi Valley drainage basin. Its differentiating characteristics include:

- 5-lobed leaves
- leaves broader than long
- leaves woolly or hairy below
- petioles very hairy

Who Am I?



Tree Knowledge - Who Am I? for August 2013 was the Chinaberry (*Melia azedarach* L.)

Check out page 319 in the Mississippi Trees book.



Flower



Twig

Victory Over Japan (V-J) Day

VJ Day marks the end of WWII and the cessation of fighting against Japan. It is called "Victory In Japan Day" or "Victory Over Japan Day". There is some confusion over what date is V-J Day... is it in August or September?

You can consider any (or all) of three dates as V-J Day. President Harry S. Truman caused some of this confusion.

- ✧ On August 14, 1945, the Japanese government cabled to the U.S. their surrender. This is the date of most modern observances.
- ✧ On August 15, 1945, news of the surrender was announced to the world. This sparked spontaneous celebrations over the final ending of World War II.
- ✧ On September 2, 1945, a formal surrender ceremony was held in Tokyo Bay aboard the USS Missouri. At the time, President Truman declared September 2 to be VJ Day.

Regardless of which day you view as VJ Day, World War II was finally over.

V-J History

The war in the Pacific was

hard fought and bloody. The tide had definitely turned and the U.S. military was fighting island by island towards Japan. Resistance was fierce. Casualties on both sides were high. The U.S. had developed the atomic bomb. The U.S. government was anxious to end the war, and stop the loss of American lives.

On August 6th, 1945, the United States military dropped an atomic bomb over the city of Hiroshima, Japan in an effort to force Japan into an immediate, unconditional surrender. Instead of immediately surrendering, the Japanese government debated what to do. So, the U.S. dropped a second atomic bomb on August 9, 1945 over the city of Nagasaki, Japan.

On August 14, 1945, Japanese Emperor Hirohito cabled the U.S. to surrender, and agreed to the terms of the Potsdam Declaration.

On August 15, 1945, news of the surrender was announced to the world. World War II was finally over. Hostilities ended.

On September 2, 1945, the Japanese formally surren-

dered aboard the U.S. battleship USS Missouri in Tokyo Bay. President Truman declared this to be V-J Day.



SAVE THE DATE

Mississippi State Fair
October 2 to October 13,
2013

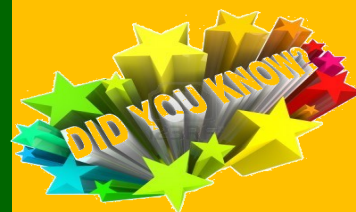


LABOR DAY



Moving On

- * John Easley, Forest Ranger, ECD
- * Steven Vowell, Forest Technician, ECD
- * Daniel Freeman, Forest Ranger, SCD
- * Martin McDaniel, Forest Ranger, Lee County, NED
- * William Gowen, Forest Ranger, SWD
- * Kevin Crosby, Forestry Technician, SWD



- ? 98.5 million Americans live in what are called Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) areas.
- ? The last 10 years have seen [more than 60 megafires](#) over 100,000 acres in size in the American West.
- ? The federal budget sequester eliminated \$28 million from the U. S. Forest Service budget this year.
- ? Wildfire embers can travel over one mile.
- ? The woodpecker population has exploded in certain regions and the [tree-hungry emerald ash borer beetles](#) are at the root of the issue.

Benefit Enrollment Schedule 2014

Everyone,

Below is the schedule for the Benefit Enrollment Sessions that we do each year. As of today we are not aware of any premium increases. That said, we plan to allow the signature on file option for anyone not wishing to change any of their benefits options. If employees plan to add and/or drop an option, they must attend as they will need to sign the add/drop form, complete enrollment forms if they are adding an option, and of course they must then sign the SRA form. If, in the meantime, we are notified of any premium changes we will notify you immediately.

Employees wishing to exercise the signature on file option must notify their district/office of their intention prior to enrollment. The best way to do this may be by email as these can be printed and attached to your SRA form.

Employees are also able to attend the enrollment in any district/office if they are unable to attend the one in their respective district/office. This is also true for our State Office staff and the employees of our agency that travel on a daily basis.

Keep in mind that if your respective district/office requires each of their employees to attend this notice does not supersede that di-

rective. Due to the changes to the State Employee Handbook, updates on MFC policies, and the new Safety Manual the district/office may wish for each employee to attend in order to sign for and obtain this information at open enrollment if your district/office has not already distributed this information.

If you have any questions, or need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact Jan Baker at 601-359-2811.

Jan Baker
Personnel Officer
(601) 359-2811 office
jbaker@mfc.state.ms.us

Benefits Enrollment Schedule 2014*

Location	Date	Time
Northwest District (Elliot/Grenada)	Tuesday, September 24, 2013	9:00 a.m.
Northeast District (Tupelo)	Wednesday, September 25, 2013	9:00 a.m.
East Central District (Philadelphia)	Thursday, September 26, 2013	9:00 a.m.
State Office	Monday, September 30, 2013	9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Central District (Pearl)	Monday, September 30, 2013	1:30 - 3:30 p.m.
Southeast District (Wiggins)	Tuesday, October 1, 2013	9:00 a.m.
South Central District (Bay Springs)	Wednesday, October 2, 2013	9:00 a.m.
Southwest District (Brookhaven)	Thursday, October 3, 2013	9:00 a.m.

* Plan Year (January 1 to December 31, 2014)



MISSISSIPPI WILDLAND FIRE ACADEMY

Will be held between October 21st to November 8th, 2013 at Southern Regional Fire Training Center in Pearl, Mississippi.

Contact Jeff Ware, State Safety and Training Coordinator at (662)842-5312 or e-mail: jware@mfc.state.ms.us for more information. Check out this link: http://www.mfc.ms.gov/pdf/SRFTC/2013_Wildland_Fire_Academy_F.pdf for the Wildland Fire Academy 2013 Brochure. Deadline is September 27, 2013.

Damaging Non-Native Forest Pest at Home in Northeastern U.S.

Beginning with early colonists who landed in the New World loaded with dreams, grit and perhaps the continent's first alien forest pests, and continuing today with the expansion of global trade, the northeastern United States has been ground zero for damaging non-native forest pest invasions.

In a study recently published online in the journal *Diversity and Distributions*, U.S. Forest Service researchers Andrew Liebhold, Laura Blackburn, Susan Frankel and partners used spatial data to demonstrate that the distribution of invasive forest pests is highly focused, with a particularly large number of species established in the northeastern region and then moderate but still troublesome numbers radiating to the west and south.

As the landing place for early American colonists, and continuing with the industrialization and proliferation of cargo imports, the Northeast has been receiving invasive forest insects far longer than anywhere else in the nation. The earliest record associated with the 79 invasive forest pests used in the analysis dates back to 1794, and 19 species were detected before 1900. Seventy-five percent of the invasive forest pests included in the study were detected before 1940.

In terms of invasive forest insects, tree species diversity works against Northeastern forests.

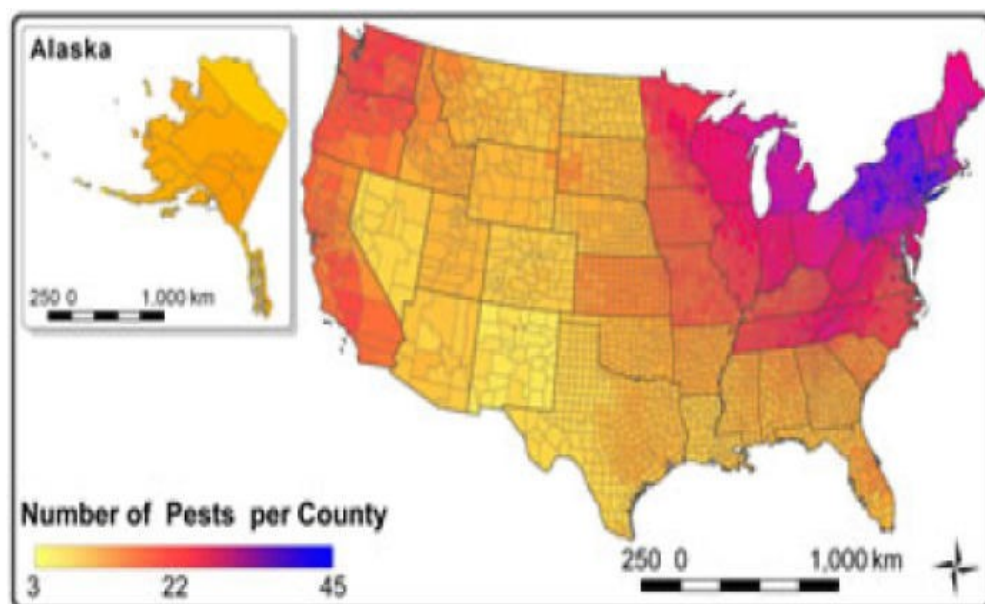
"The Northeast has an abundance of diverse hardwood tree species, and 65 percent of the insect and pathogen invaders included in this

study colonize hardwood tree species," said Liebhold, a research entomologist with the U.S. Forest Service's Northern Research Station. "Had these non-native insects disembarked in a forest that is predominately pine for example, most wouldn't have survived to become the damaging non-native forest pests that they are today."

Establishment of both European and Asian forest insects and pathogens in North America has likely been facilitated by the similarity of the flora among these three continents, the study suggests.

Industrialization and forest susceptibility to invasion also contributed to alien pests' ability to spread. In the most populated corner of the

(Continued on page 8)



(Continued from page 7, *Damaging Non-Native Forest Pest at Home in Northeastern U.S.*)

United States, inadvertent human assistance has greatly enhanced insects' ability to spread from the initial point of invasion throughout a region.

While the study illustrates a concentration of alien forest pests in the Northeast, it also shows that forest pests are taking a toll throughout the nation. "There are plenty of highly-damaging invasive

species in Western United States forests, such as sudden oak death and white pine blister rust," according to Frankel, a plant pathologist with the Forest Service's Pacific Southwest Research Station. "This study shows that when non-native pests are introduced, it is just a matter of time until they spread. With shipping patterns shifting to Western ports, we are concerned that the West will catch up over the next century."

The study is based on data from

the Alien Forest Pest Explorer, a web tool that gives users a county-by-county look at geographical distributions of damaging forest invasive pests throughout the nation.

Story Source:

The above story is based on [materials](#) provided by [USDA Forest Service - Northern Research Station](#).

USDA Forest Service - Northern Research Station (2013, July 16). Damaging non-native forest pests at home in northeastern U.S.. *ScienceDaily*.



Training - S-212 Wildland Chainsaw Training Course at Bienville. Ed Brown led the class along with instructors, Paul Tadlock, John Locke, Randy Guichelli, Howard Stogner, and Keith Parker. Some were getting re-certified, some never been certified, and some were getting their AD certification to be on the Saw Team on Fire Detail. 2 days of classroom lessons, and then 2 days in the field cutting down trees. Photo by Meacham Harlow, Southern Outreach Officer.

Training

developing the skills, experience, a employees need to perform improve their performance skills, and abilities, specific

Happy Labor Day



2013 MFA Annual Meeting

**MFA Annual Meeting set for October 16 - 18
in Jackson**

Mississippi Forestry Association and Mississippi Prescribed Fire Council invite you to join them for their annual meetings. This year the Mississippi Prescribed Fire Council will meet immediately preceding the MFA meeting and a special price will be offered to those attending both meetings. The meetings feature a program of many outstanding speakers in the field of forestry, wildlife, and economics.



Speakers will include Danielle DiMartino Booth, Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas; Buddy Irby, Anderson Tully; Dr. David Jones and Dr. Morgan Varner, Mississippi State University; Rhett Johnson, Longleaf Alliance; Rob Olszewski, Plum Creek; Fred Stimpson, Scotch/Gulf Lumber; Dr. Bo Morgan, University of Southern Mississippi, and more.

2013 Backyards & Beyond Wildland Fire Education Conference



Backyards
& Beyond

Sheraton Hotel • Salt Lake City, UT
Conference • November 14-16, 2013
Pre-conference Workshop • November 12-13, 2013

Wildland fires are a serious threat to lives and property in the U.S. In the past decade, wildfires have burned over 59 million acres of land. According to the National Interagency Fire Center, 2011 saw one of the worst fire seasons in decades, with close to 9 million acres burned. Decreasing fire risk in the WUI is a huge challenge, but NFPA's Wildland Fire Operations Division continues to work with organizations across the country and around the globe to raise awareness of wildfire and what communities can do to help lower their risk of damage.

Join NFPA in Salt Lake City for the 5th Backyards & Beyond Wildland Fire Education Conference, November 14 – 16, 2013. Share your knowledge, build relationships, explore key issues and learn about important wildfire mitigation tools and resources to help you and your community prepare for and adapt to living with wildfire.

This event brings together a diverse audience of leading wildfire experts, Firewise community representatives,

community planners, civic leaders, homeowners and residents, insurance professionals, landscape architects and others, and offers attendees a chance to network with like-minded professionals and share best-practices that they can take back to their communities and workplaces.

Session education tracks at this event will include:

- Community Safety Approaches and Strategies
- Home Construction & Landscape Design
- Research (Physical, Social, Ecology and Environmental)
- Technology, Policy & Regulations
- Wildfire Planning, Suppression & Operations

For more information, including registration form, hotel room information, air and ground transportation, etc., [click here](#).



Mississippi Firewise

Demystifying the “dragon”: how homes really ignite during wildfires. By Gary Marshall on FireBreak.

As an instructor for NFPA’s seminar “Assessing Wildfire Hazards in the Home Ignition Zone,” I know that wildfire is a common event throughout many areas of the United States. Did you know that wildfire is the easiest natural peril to mitigate? And did you know that wildfire takes place outside of “forested” areas? Many believe that if they live in the city or a suburban area that they have no wildfire risk and their odds are good, but this is a common myth. As an instructor, I am a myth-buster! Wildfire spreads by a “set of conditions” of fuel types, not only in the forested areas or “mapped” wildfire hazard zones, but also urban and suburban areas.

Fire behaves according to the laws that guide the combustion process. Fire spreads as a continual process of combustion. It is not a moving force that cannot be stopped, as conditions must continue to meet the requirements of combustion for it to continue. The “dragon,” as some firefighters and the media may call this combustion process, is where gasses from a fuel ignite from an energy source to create a flame. The fire triangle demonstrates that three items are needed for this chain reaction called “fire” to happen: fuel, heat and oxygen. Remove any one of the three and the fire will die. No

more Dragon.

When a fuel (whether natural fuel like trees and brush or an urban fuel like a house or wooden lawn furniture) is heated, it produces a gas which when mixed with air (oxygen) and ignited with a heat source, begins to burn. To break the fire triangle, one of the three sides must be removed. Since it’s impossible to remove the air, and often difficult to have enough water is available to cool the fire to reduce the heat, firefighters often target their efforts on removing the fuel. Interrupting fuel continuity can reduce a fire’s intensity, making it controllable.

Homes and vegetation normally ignite from convected heat (flame) or conducted heat (embers). Homes do not normally explode from external heat and flames during a wildfire, but can and often do ignite from flame contact against exterior materials or when firebrands enter openings and cause internal ignitions.

Homeowner efforts do make a huge difference for firefighters. Reducing the ignitability of a home and any fuel around the home reduces fire intensity and improves firefighter and personal safety. Firefighters are trained to efficiently suppress wildfires, but their effectiveness is reduced when they do the work during the fire that the homeowner should be doing before there is smoke on the hori-

zon. Moving woodpiles, cleaning gutters, closing windows and garage doors, cutting tree limbs and removing brush and combustibles against the home should be the homeowner’s responsibility before the fire -- not the firefighter’s job.

Residents need to understand there will never be enough fire fighting resources to protect every house during a large catastrophic wildfire event. But residents can improve their odds against wildfire this season. Residents need to take action now and encourage others in their neighborhood to do the same. Visit Firewise.org and get educated on identifying fuel hazards and reducing ignitions risks and developing evacuation options. By doing this the losses of lives of firefighters and residents and the destruction of homes from wildfires can be significantly reduced.



The Smurfs Encourage Children to Get Outside And Discover The Forest

Washington, DC, June 21, 2013 / PRNewswire/

In an effort to encourage children to spend more time outdoors and reconnect with nature, the U.S. Forest Service and the Ad Council are joining Sony Pictures Entertainment to launch a series of public service advertisements (PSAs) featuring characters and footage from Columbia Pictures/Sony Pictures Animation's upcoming family comedy *The Smurfs™ 2*. The PSAs are an extension of the U.S. Forest Service and Ad Council's Discover the Forest campaign and will be featured at an event on Saturday, June 22, at The Grove in Los Angeles as part of the studio's "America the Bluetiful" initiative, a nationwide tour where the Smurfs aim to "bluetify" America through a series of environmentally friendly activities.

Initially launched in 2009, the Discover the Forest campaign encourages children and their families to get outside and experience the many benefits of nature. The goal of the campaign is to instill a love for nature in children, ultimately creating a lifelong interest and legacy of stewardship through first-hand experience. Created pro bono by Sony Pictures, the new PSAs feature Smurfs characters enjoying the beauty and benefits of their forest home, and encourage both parents and children to experience all the wonder that nature has to offer.

According to the U.S. Forest Service, more than 245 million Americans live

within 100 miles from a National Forest or Grassland. While most of the time that U.S. children are outdoors is spent participating in activities such as biking, walking, listening to music, or using electronic devices, nature-based activities, such as hiking, camping, and fishing are not as common. Research has shown that children who play outside have lower stress levels and more active imaginations, become fitter and leaner, develop stronger immune systems and are more likely to become environmentally conscious in the future.

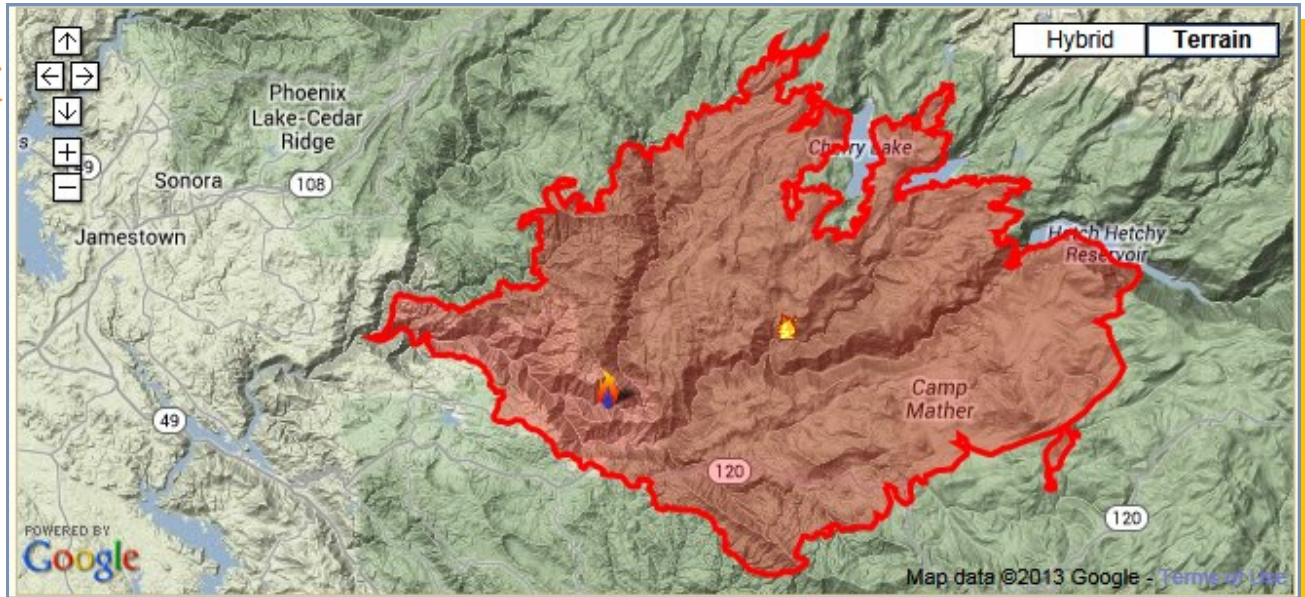
"We are excited to have the Smurfs help us in trying to get more kids out to enjoy their natural surroundings," said U.S. Forest Service Chief Tom Tidwell. "Nearly 10 percent of this country consists of national forests and grasslands, offering an abundance of lands for children from all walks of life to get out and play."

The PSAs encourage children and their parents to visit www.DiscoverTheForest.org where they can find ideas for outdoor activities, an interactive map tool — powered by Google and Nature Find™ — that enables users to search for nearby forests and parks, as well as a downloadable activity sheet featuring Smurfs characters for them to print and take with them when they visit.

For more on this story, click this [link](#).



New PSAs from U.S. Forest Service, the Ad Council and Sony Pictures Continue Efforts to Inspire Families to Reconnect with Nature



Basic Information

Incident Type	Wildfire
Cause	Under Investigation
Date of Origin	Saturday August 17th, 2013 approx. 03:15 PM
Location	Groveland Range District, Stanislaus NF
Incident Commander	Wilkins/lawshe

Current Situation

Total Personnel	4,840
Size	192,737 acres
Percent Contained	30%
Estimated Containment Date	Friday September 20th, 2013 approx. 12:00 AM

Fire Update as of August 29, 2013

Last night firefighters continued their burning operations near Duckwall Mountain and Pilot Peak, and will continue to construct fireline north to Fahey Cabin, and provided structure defense. Firefighters prepared for burning operations south of Hetch Hetchy in Yosemite National Park. Burning operations are also expected near Duckwall Mountain and near Old Yosemite Road. Crews will continue with burning operations as long as weather conditions allow, and will construct and improve firelines and provide structure defense.

Approximately 4,500 structures remain threatened in advance of the fire on both the east and west. Fire is expected to continue its eastward spread farther into the west side of Yosemite National Park east of Aspen Valley. Several residents remain under mandatory evacuation in the Scotts Ridge area south of highway 120. Evacuation advisories issued to areas from Long Barn north to Pinecrest.

Due to inaccessible steep terrain and extreme fire behavior suppression efforts on active portions of the fire are being significantly challenged. Heavy reliance on aviation resources has been critical in an effort to slow the fires progress to allow suppression resources to establish indirect control lines in areas where accessibility and safety can be achieved. The availability of heavy aircraft is pertinent to the success of suppression efforts.

The 12-day-old Rim Fire continued to grow, expanding to 292 square miles, and containment remained at 23 percent. But increasingly confident fire officials said they expect to fully surround it in three weeks, although it will burn for much longer than that.

The Rim Fire has destroyed 111 structures, including 11 homes, and posed a threat to ancient giant sequoias.



Above: Yosemite National Park wildfire: The Rim Fire - more than tripled in size overnight and threatens about 2,500 homes, hotels and camp buildings near the park.

Below: A Colorado-based firefighter monitors a backfire while battling the Rim Fire in Groveland, Calif.



Federal Budget to Fight Wildfire Is Depleted

From the *Washingtonpost.com* by Darryl Fears, Published August 22, 2013.

For the second straight [year](#), the federal government has run through its budget for fighting wildfires amid a grueling, deadly season and will be forced to move \$600 million from other funds, some of which help prevent fires.

This year's budget depletion reflects the new normal in fire-fighting, where parched seasons last at least two months longer than in previous decades and wildfires burn bigger and hotter, according to the U.S. Forest Service and conservationists who track fires.

More than 31,900 fires have burned

3 million acres in the United States this year, according to the Forest Service.

Compared with other fire seasons in the past decade, that is mild. Last year produced the second-worst season on record: 67,700 fires burned 9.3 million acres, according to the [National Interagency Fire Center](#). In 2006, more than 96,300 fires burned 9.8 million acres.

A total burn of 5 million acres was once a rarity in fire seasons that ran from June to September before 2001. But since then, the season has expanded from May to October, as [a changing climate](#) has brought longer stretches of dryness and drought, providing fires more fuel to burn.

As of Monday, the Forest Service had spent \$967 million to pay for firefighters and the equipment that supports them. That included more than \$200 million in the congressional Federal Land Assistance, Management and Enhancement supplemental account known as FLAME.

That left only \$50 million to control at least 40 fires burning hundreds of thousands of acres in Idaho, Oregon, California, Utah, Nevada, Wyoming, Montana and other states. President Obama was briefed on fire-control efforts this week, and nearly 18,000 personnel are fighting fires.

For the entire article, follow this [link](#).

USFS Release Research on EAB

From ACTrees.com

Newtown Square, PA – Entomologists from the U.S. Forest Service's Northern Research Station and their partners are in the forefront of Emerald Ash Borer research. Their efforts have involved studying many aspects of EAB biology and control—basic behavior, reactions to pesticides, detecting the larvae in logs and trees, and traps for detecting adult beetles. This research is all now available in one report, outlining contributions to control efforts and slowing the spread of the beetle.

By: U.S. Forest Service Northern Research Station, Research Review, Summer 2013

Newtown Square, PA (Summer 2013) — Beautiful, shady neighborhoods all over the Midwest and the Northeast are bare of their ash trees, cut down because of the emerald ash borer (EAB). The rapidly spreading EAB infestation has also set off a storm of scientific investigation into the ecological and social damage and the costs to affected communities.

Since it was first detected in 2002 around Detroit and neighboring parts of Ontario, EAB has spread to 18 states, from Kansas City to Minneapolis/St. Paul in the Midwest, south to the Smoky Mountains National Park, and all the way north to New Hampshire and Montreal, Quebec. Since its arrival, EAB has been able to attack and kill all native species of North American ashes (genus *Fraxinus*) that it has encountered.

Much of the long-distance spread of EAB is due to human activities—

(Continued on page 16)

Tree-Killing Insect Emerald Ash Borer Found in Georgia

From OnlineAthens. Published Thursday, August 22, 2013.

For years, foresters and invasive insect experts—including those at the University of Georgia—have been on the lookout for the arrival of an unwelcome guest in Georgia. Now that the emerald ash borer is here, they are hoping the public will help restrict the insect's spread within the state.

The small, iridescent green beetle has killed millions of ash trees across a wide swath of the upper Midwest and Canada since it was first detected in 2002. The emerald ash borer, known scientifically as the *Agilus planipennis*, has spread south and west from infested areas over the last decade.

Since 2005, invasive species experts have conducted an extensive trapping program in Georgia to screen for the insect. In July of this year, researchers found adult emerald ash borers in survey traps located in DeKalb and Fulton counties. A follow-up ground survey found larvae in nearby ash trees, confirming an established emerald ash borer infestation was present.

The borer's larvae kill ash trees by burrowing serpentine tunnels in the inner layers of bark, preventing

the tree from transporting water and nutrients to and from the tree canopy. Although the adult beetle is an active flyer, it is believed the primary way this beetle spreads is by hitching a ride on infested ash firewood, logs and nursery stock.

"To prevent the spread of emerald ash borer, it is important not to move firewood in which the insect can hide," said Kamal Gandhi, an assistant professor in the UGA Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources. "Buy local firewood whether camping or for your home."

Georgia's five species of native ash trees usually grow along stream banks. While they only make up about 1 percent of the state's forests, they play an integral role in preventing stream bank erosion and keeping silt out of natural waterways.

Ash also is a popular landscape tree, with 2.9 million planted around Georgia homes, businesses, parks and on public right-of-ways. The value of these city trees in Georgia is estimated to be around \$725 million.

To help reduce the spread of emerald ash borer in Georgia, citizens with ash trees on their property should check or have a certi-

fied arborist check their trees for signs of borer infestations.

Suspected infestations should be reported immediately so that foresters or arborists can understand how the infestation is spreading and can develop effective methods to reduce its spread and impact.

"The faster scientists can track the spread of the insect, the faster they can work to stop it," said Joe LaForest, the integrated pest management and forest health coordinator in the UGA Center for Invasive Species and Ecosystem Health.

The Georgia Invasive Species Task force will launch a public outreach plan to try to curb the spread of this pest in the near future. This task force consists of the Georgia Department of Agriculture, Georgia Forestry Commission, University of Georgia, Georgia Department of Natural Resources and USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

For more information about the emerald ash borer and how to protect ash trees, follow this [link](#).

New Wildland Fire Website

The Forest Service launched a new [wildland fire website](#) with insightful information to help you learn about all these Forest Service activities from before, during and after a wildland fire. You'll read about how the Forest Service feeds its firefighters, how they live while in fire camp and about the state-of-the-art technology they use while protecting natural resources and communities.

(Continued from page 14, USFS Releases Research on EAB)

people moving infested firewood and nursery trees out of quarantined areas. Early eradication efforts consisted of cutting and chopping or burning infested wood and prevention efforts focused on quarantines, developing detection and treatment methods for individual trees and education efforts such as the “Don’t Move Firewood” campaign. Knowledge about the EAB and how to control it, or at least slow its spread, continues to drive efforts to save ash.

Entomologists from the U.S. Forest Service’s Northern Research Station (NRS) laboratory in East Lansing, MI, and other NRS scientists from Delaware, OH, are in the forefront of EAB research (along with their Michigan State and Ohio State University partners). Their efforts have involved studying many aspects of EAB biology and control—basic behavior, reactions to pesticides, detecting the larvae in logs and trees, and traps for detecting adult beetles.

Get the report on the expanding information and technology that

have contributed to control efforts and slowing the spread of the beetle: ["Emerald Ash Borer Research: A Decade of Progress on an Expanding Pest Problem"](#) was released by the U.S. Forest Service this summer (2013).

Having Fun!!!



Having fun at the "back to school health and wellness fair at Jones Park in the Harbor, Gulfport, MS. Smokey was visiting the kids and parents. Photos submitted by Meacham Harlow, Southern Outreach Officer.

MS Man Arrested On Timber Theft

Mississippi man arrested on timber theft charges

Baton Rouge, LA (Aug. 22, 2013) –A Mississippi man was arrested Aug. 9, 2013 by Forestry Enforcement agents with the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry (LDAF) and charged with theft of timber valued at \$14,507.35 and exploitation of the infirmed.

Eugene Matthews, 66, 1149 Matthews Road, Tylertown, Miss. was arrested and booked into the Washington Parish Jail.

LDAF agents said the four-month long investigation revealed that Matthews entered into a timber contract with a 76-year-old Washington Parish landowner in August 2012 to harvest 30 acres of timber. After the timber harvest was completed, the owner discovered he was not paid for the number of loads that left his property. The landowner subsequently contacted the LDAF to file a complaint.

“LDAF enforcement agents take agriculture and forestry related crimes very seriously and they will seek justice when individuals break the law,” Agriculture and Forestry Commissioner Mike Strain, D.V.M. said. “I advise anyone who believes they may be victim of timber theft to immediately report a suspected crime.”

The Washington Parish Sheriff’s Office assisted LDAF agents with the apprehension of Matthews.



Photo of the Mississippi team who competed in the National 3-H Forestry Competition in West Virginia. The Mississippi team place 8th in competition. Photo submitted by Drew Stafford, Assistant District Forester, Northwest District.



Safety First . . .

(Below is a condense article from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration).

Studies of tire safety show that maintaining proper tire pressure, observing tire and vehicle load limits (not carrying more weight in your vehicle than your tires or vehicle can safely handle), avoiding road hazards, and inspecting tires for cuts, slashes, and other irregularities are the most important things you can do to avoid tire failure, such as tread separation or blowout and flat tires. These actions, along with other care and maintenance activities, can also:

- ◆ Improve vehicle handling
- ◆ Help protect you and others from avoidable breakdowns and accidents
- ◆ Improve fuel economy
- ◆ Increase the life of your tires.

Safety First—Basic Tire Maintenance

Properly maintained tires improve the steering, stopping, traction, and load-carrying capability of your vehicle. Underinflated tires and overloaded vehicles are a major cause of tire failure. Therefore, as mentioned above, to avoid flat tires and other types of tire failure, you should maintain proper tire pressure, observe tire and vehicle load limits, avoid road hazards, and regularly inspect your tires.

Finding Your Vehicle's Recommended Tire Pressure and Load Limits

Tire information placards and vehicle certification labels contain information on tires and load limits. These labels indicate the vehicle manufacturer's information including:

- ◆ Recommended tire size
- ◆ Recommended tire inflation pressure
- ◆ Vehicle capacity weight
- ◆ Front and rear gross axle weight ratings

Both placards and certification labels are permanently attached to the vehicle door edge, door post, glove-box door, or inside of the trunk lid. You can also find the recommended tire pressure and load limit for your vehicle in the vehicle owner's manual.

Checking Tire Pressure

It is important to check your vehicle's tire pressure at least once a month for the following reasons:

Most tires may naturally lose air over time.

Tires can lose air suddenly if you drive over a pothole or other object or if you strike the curb when parking.

With radial tires, it is usually not possible to determine underinflation by visual inspection.

For convenience, purchase a tire pressure gauge to keep in your vehicle. Gauges can be purchased at tire dealerships, auto supply stores, and other retail outlets.

The recommended tire inflation pressure that vehicle manufacturers provide reflects the proper psi when a tire is cold. The term cold does not relate to the outside temperature. Rather, a cold tire is one that has not been driven on for at least three hours. When you drive, your tires get warmer, causing the air pressure within them to increase. Therefore, to get an accurate tire pressure reading, you must measure tire pressure

when the tires are cold or compensate for the extra pressure in warm tires.

Tire Tread

The tire tread provides the gripping action and traction that prevent your vehicle from slipping or sliding, especially when the road is wet or icy. In general, tires are not safe and should be replaced when the tread is worn down to 1/16 of an inch. Tires have built-in treadwear indicators that let you know when it is time to replace your tires. These indicators are raised sections spaced intermittently in the bottom of the tread grooves. When they appear "even" with the outside of the tread, it is time to replace your tires. Another method for checking tread depth is to place a penny in the tread with Lincoln's head upside down and facing you. If you can see the top of Lincoln's head, you are ready for new tires.

As Paul Harvey use to say "For the rest of the story" visit <http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov/cars/rules/TireSafety/ridesonit/brochure.html>. You will find tips on steps for maintaining proper tire pressure, understanding tire pressure and load limits, tire size, tire balance and wheel alignment and much more.



First Time, Every Time